

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 12, 2005. Claims 1-45 have been canceled. New claims 46-56 have been added. Thus, claims 46-56 are now pending.

Claim 46 defines over the cited art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 46 requires "first and second sectional sidewalls provided at least partially between the first and second electrodes, a laser waveguide including a cavity defined between the first and second electrodes and between the first and second sidewalls, a plurality of protrusions on the first and/or second electrode, the protrusions extending into the cavity of the laser waveguide from the first and/or second electrode." For example, and without limitation, Fig. 9 of the instant application illustrates example protrusions 21 on the electrodes 2, 4, where the protrusions 21 extend into the cavity of the waveguide 6. An example advantage of these protrusions is that they may aid in the starting characteristics of the laser by increasing the electric field in a localized region(s) of the waveguide (e.g., see paragraph [0044] of the instant specification).

Yarborough (US 5,140,606) and Shackleton (US 2003/0058913) fail to disclose or suggest the aforesaid underlined features of claim 46. For instance, Yarborough has no protrusions which extend from an electrode(s) into the cavity of a laser waveguide. Fig. 5 of Yarborough makes clear that pipe-receiving channels 76 and 78 are on the opposite side of the electrodes as the waveguide, and are thus entirely unrelated to the protrusions called for in claim 46.

Claims 48 and 49 require that respective adjacent sections of the sectional sidewall(s) abut one another so as to be in contact with each other. For example and without limitation, Fig. 3 of the instant application illustrates sidewall sections 3a-3e abutting each other (see also paragraph [0017]). The cited art fails to disclose or suggest this underlined feature of these

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claims. For instance, brackets 60 in Yarborough do not abut each other, and are not even close to each other. Likewise, brackets 70 in Shackleton do not abut one another. Thus, these references teach away from the inventions of claims 48-49.

It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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